

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the specification to include a reference on page 1, line 1 stating "This Application is a continuation of Serial No. 09/815,533, filed March 16, 2001".

It is requested that the Examiner consider the material submitted in the Amendment dated May 15, 2003, including the declaration under 37 CFR §1.132 by Prof. Baici that was filed therewith.

In paragraph 5 of the Advisory Action the Examiner states that Claims 91 and 92 belong to Group II and III respectively and would not be co-examined with the elected species of Group I.

Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 91 is dependent on Claim 88 and Claim 92 is dependent on Claim 91. Since these claims contain the recitations of the Group I claims it is believed that no undue burden is necessary to examine claims 81-92 together. It is therefore requested that the no election restriction be required.

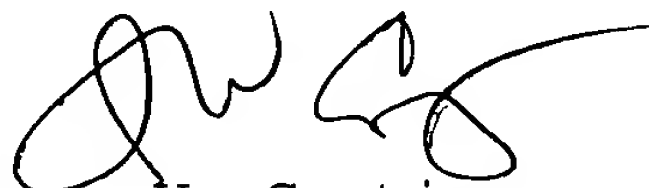
In accordance with the Examiner's remarks in paragraph 6 of the Advisory Action, Attached hereto are a disk in ASCII format and a hard copy which contain the sequence listings in accordance with CFR §1.821 and a RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS FOR PATENT APPLICATIONS CONTAINING NUCLEOTIDE AND/OR AMINO ACID SEQUENCE DISCLOSURES affirming that the hard copy and the electronic copy contain identical information and that no new matter has been added. Additionally, Applicant has amended the specification to recite the sequence identifiers in accordance with MPEP §2422.

Based on the PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT, RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS FOR PATENT APPLICATIONS CONTAINING NUCLEOTIDE AND/OR AMINO ACID SEQUENCE

DISCLOSURES, the AMENDMENT (and all documents filed therewith) filed on May 15, 2003 and the above remarks, applicant respectfully submits that Claims 81-92 are allowable over the prior art and that the present application is in proper form for allowance. Reconsideration of all rejections and objections is requested in view of this preliminary amendment.

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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